

Collazo, Detective Zachary Plese, Detective Ryan Cagle, and Detective Sergeant Jeffery Mathes for their incredible bravery on behalf of the students and teachers at The Covenant School. They showed true professionalism, courage, and selflessness—which is the very definition of heroism. I also recognize and honor Chief John Drake for his steady presence and clarity of mind on that terrible day.

During times of overwhelming fear and uncertainty, the people of the Volunteer State look to their leaders not only for swift action but for comfort and reassurance. The brave men and women in blue who put their lives on the line every day to protect our communities deserve all the admiration, gratitude, and support we can offer, and I am so honored to represent them here in the U.S. Senate.

Mr. HAGERTY. I thank Senator BLACKBURN.

Mr. President, I join Senator BLACKBURN today to honor the heroic, lifesaving actions by Officer Rex Engelbert of Nashville, TN; Detective Michael Collazo of Smyrna, TN; Detective Sergeant Jeffery Mathes of Nashville, TN; Detective Ryan Cagle of Charlotte, TN; and Detective Zachary Plese of Nashville, TN. These dedicated officers showed exceptional courage by putting their lives on the line to save others.

On March 27, 2023, an unspeakable tragedy took place at The Covenant School in Nashville, TN. A cowardly and depraved murderer's gruesome actions took six innocent lives—including those of three 9-year-old children. I join the families affected, the Nashville community, Tennesseans across our State, and millions of Americans in mourning this heartbreaking and outrageous act of evil.

What is unmistakably clear is the incredible bravery and heroism of the first responders, who prevented this tragedy from being even worse.

Officer Engelbert, Detective Collazo, Detective Sergeant Mathes, Detective Cagle, and Detective Plese, nobly and without hesitation, rushed into an active shooter situation at The Covenant School. Released body camera and surveillance footage shows that these officers confronted and eliminated the lethal threat within a mere 3 minutes.

The rapid response and swift assessments of the emergency not only underscore the strength of their training, but also their bravery as they quickly entered the school despite obvious risks to their own safety. Their actions likely saved countless lives.

I echo the words of Governor Bill Lee when I say, "Gratitude doesn't begin to cover it."

Today, we honor the heroic actions of Officer Engelbert, Detective Collazo, Detective Sergeant Mathes, Detective Cagle, Detective Plese, and the other brave first responders who rushed to the aid of strangers, putting others before themselves that day. I join Tennesseans and all Americans to express our heartfelt gratitude.

U.N. GLOBAL ROAD SAFETY WEEK

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, this week, May 15–21, 2023, marks U.N. Global Road Safety Week, with a focus this year on sustainable transport. As governments look to tackle the issues of climate change, some of the answers lie in making it easier for people to walk, cycle, and use public transport as a way to navigate our cities, but in order to do that, we need to prioritize making these options safer. I recognize the tremendous contributions of our partner organizations in this global effort, including the Association for Safe International Road Travel ASIRT.

More than 1 million people die from road crashes every year, and tens of millions are seriously injured. Road traffic crashes are leading cause of death among young people between the ages of 15 and 29 and the eighth among all people worldwide. It is time to draw attention to the need for improved legislation, awareness, infrastructure, and technology to save more families from the tragedy of losing a loved one.

On this seventh anniversary of U.N. Global Road Safety Week, it is critical to recommit to the goals of raising awareness about road safety and the importance of taking steps to end these preventable deaths. The World Health Organization, in collaboration with partners including governments, NGOs, businesses, and individuals, organizes periodic U.N. Global Safety Weeks. It was initiated in 2007 and, as of 2019, has become an annual event.

In September 2020, the U.N. General Assembly announced the ambitious goal of halving road deaths within 10 years through the adoption of the resolution "Improving global road safety," proclaiming the Decade of Action for Road Safety from 2021–2030. The Global Plan for the Decade of Action provides a roadmap for achieving these goals through improving the design of roads and vehicles, enhancing laws and enforcement of road safety measures, and providing timely and lifesaving emergency care for those injured. Using these policies can help promote walking, cycling, and public transit. Additionally, the U.N. Sustainable Development Goal 3.6 calls on governments and their stakeholders, including NGOs and private citizens, to address the personal, medical, and financial burdens associated with road traffic deaths and injuries.

We must improve the safety of our roads for all who wish to use them, be it for walking, cycling, or driving. As we continue to shift towards more sustainable modes of transit, it is imperative that our laws enable us to curb dangerous behaviors and keep people safe. It is our responsibility to protect our citizens through designing road networks with the most at-risk in mind, and doing the utmost to prevent untimely death or injury due to crashes.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO WADE LITTON

• Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, I am pleased to commend Mr. Wade Litton of Greenwood, MS, for his service and contributions to the State of Mississippi while serving as the 87th president of Delta Council.

Organized in 1935, Delta Council plays an important role in uniting agricultural, business, and economic development leadership to solve problems and promote greater opportunities in the Mississippi Delta region, which encompasses 19 counties in northwest Mississippi. Mr. Litton has worked tirelessly this year to advance the priorities of Delta Council, including healthcare, farm policy, economic development, flood control, and education. He is also the third generation of his family to serve as president of Delta Council.

Mr. Litton is the chief executive officer of Wade, Inc., a fourth-generation company that operates 14 John Deere dealerships in the Mississippi Delta. As a businessman, Mr. Litton and his company are at the forefront of evolving farm technology tools that enable producers to become more efficient and productive. Mr. Litton's priorities in leading Delta Council have been to continue the work of the organization and to build stronger relationships with the people of the Delta to help improve the economy and quality of life for all citizens. He is deeply involved in industrial and community development, including the Delta Strong regional economic development association. Mr. Litton assumed the role of Delta Council president during unprecedented times characterized by rising inflation, rural healthcare disruptions, the after effects of the global coronavirus pandemic, and a multitude of other challenges. Wade Litton has been a steady and calm leader over this past year and has contributed his vast knowledge and service to many critical issues during his tenure as president.

Outside of his time spent running his business and serving Delta Council, Mr. Litton contributes his time to many other important organizations. He serves as a commissioner for Greenwood Utilities, a member of the Young Presidents' Organization, and is involved with the Greenwood-Leflore Chamber of Commerce, the Greenwood United Way, the Boys and Girls Club of Leflore County, the Agribusiness Industry Council of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, and the Greenwood Rotary Club. He is also a youth soccer and baseball coach. Mr. Litton, his wife Meagan, and his three children Kennan, Robert, and Elizabeth are members of the First Presbyterian Church, where he serves as an elder.

It is my pleasure to join the citizens of the great State of Mississippi in expressing our appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Wade Litton and in sharing these good wishes with his family. His